

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

COMPLETE LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-43 : (Canceled)

Claim 44 : (New) A method of enabling marking of gemstones, comprising the steps of:

manufacturing, at a manufacturing site, stencils with cutouts arranged in marking patterns;

sending the stencils from the manufacturing site to marking sites at which marking of the gemstones is to be performed;

adhering the stencils on, and in direct contact with, the gemstones to be marked at the marking sites;

filling the cutouts with a fusible material; and

inscribing the gemstones with the marking patterns of the stencils adhered to the gemstones at each marking site by heating the fusible material at each marking site to a temperature sufficient to melt the fusible material and form cavities in the gemstones, the cavities in the gemstones constituting the marking patterns.

Claim 45 : (New) The method of claim 44, wherein the fusible material is one of a metal material, a metal oxide material, a ceramic material, and an alloy of said materials.

Claim 46 : (New) The method of claim 44, and the step of covering the cutouts filled with the fusible material with a cover layer.

Claim 47 : (New) The method of claim 44, wherein the cutouts are sequential numbers.

Claim 48 : (New) The method of claim 44, wherein the cutouts are a logo.